Backlog in LPG Connections

799. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a backlog of LPG connection booking in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of measures taken by Government to clear the backlog and by when will this backlog be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) New LPG connections are made available as soon as possible and in any case, within a period of sixty days. At present, new LPG connections are available for genuine domestic customers.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that they have released 36.80 lakh new LPG connections in the country during the period April 2008 to December 2008.

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported a waitlist of 1,31,471 for release of new LPG connections with their LPG distributorships in the country as on 01.02.2009. The waiting list for release of new connections is expected to be liquidated by the end of March, 2009.

Revision of CMRE by ONGC

800. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Corporate Policy Section of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) at Dehradun has revised Conveyance Maintenance Reimbursement Expenditure (CMRE) with effect from 18 November, 2008 *vide* office order No.77/2008;

(b) whether it is also a fact that drivers subsidy amounting to Rs.6000/- per month will be paid to officers E-7 to E-9 on account of above revision;

(c) if so, the reasons for not accepting demand of contractual workers on the basis of ONGC Office Order (23/2007) dated 02 March, 2007; and

(d) the reasons for discrimination by the Management for the payment to permanent workers directly employed in the production activity of the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) considers the demands of employees as per existing Human Resources policies of ONGC. ONGC feels that the demand of contractual workers can not be equated with the permanent workers of ONGC and there is no discrimination.

Finalization of IPI pipeline agreement

801. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: